

Contact: Matt Lloyd

PENCE ASKS RUMSFELD TO RELEASE ALL PHOTOS AND VIDEO OF IRAQI PRISONER ABUSE

Washington, May 11, 2004 - (Photo: Pence talks with Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez in Baghdad, March 2004.) Washington, D.C.- U.S. Congressman Mike Pence today sent a letter to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld applauding the Defense Department's swift disciplinary action for those involved in the prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib prison. Pence's letter also calls on Secretary Rumsfeld to release any and all remaining photographic or videographic evidence concerning the abuse. Pence's letter follows:

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you for your courage under fire and your leadership of our military during these difficult days. I have admired you for many years and have just recently expressed my support for your continued leadership of the Department of Defense.

I am grateful for the speed with which the Defense Department is bringing to justice those responsible for the despicable actions taken against Iraqi prisoners of war.

However, I am writing to respectfully encourage your office to release any and all photographic or videographic evidence in your possession concerning the prisoner abuse investigation involving United States personnel at Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad.

I believe that the slow release, often by unauthorized leaks to the media, of individual photographs of this abhorrent behavior creates the impression of a much wider problem than actually existed. Only by releasing all relevant evidence in one stroke can the American people and the world community have the opportunity to begin to move past these tragic revelations and get back to the vital work of securing a peaceful and democratic Iraq.

With gratitude for your service to our troops, I am

Most sincerely,
Mike Pence
Member of Congress

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